



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 13rd December 2021

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>Renovables de la Ribera Wind Farm</i>
Project Number:	<i>2019-0097</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>The project consists of the financing of a 111-megawatt (MW) wind farm and its associated infrastructure, located in the Spanish region of Navarra</i>

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The project concerned the implementation of a ~111 MW wind farm with 32 wind turbines and the associated infrastructure, such as access roads, substation, a 66kV transmission line (~14 km overhead and ~4 km underground), and other ancillary facilities. It is located in the Spanish region of Navarra. The 66 kV transmission line connects to a newly-built 66/220/400 kV substation “La Cantera”, which gathers the energy from different projects in the area (as a shared facility belonging to the different promoters). La Cantera connects directly into the existing 400 kV substation “La Serna”, property of Red Eléctrica de España (the transmission system operator), which is the point of injection into the grid.

The project was subject to an EIA process and the competent authority granted the environmental permit (“declaracion de impacto ambiental”) in November 2016 for both the wind farm and the transmission line. The project was subject to an appropriate assessment and the competent authority confirmed that the project will not have significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites.

The environmental impact studies included the preliminary environmental monitoring plan (“plan de vigilancia ambiental”) for the construction and operational phases. The authorities specified additional measures as a condition to the permit, in particular that the environmental monitoring plan should include the definition of a protocol for continuous monitoring of the presence of avifauna in the area of the wind farm, covering the identification of collision risks and the consequential shutdown of the wind turbine involved. The final environmental monitoring plan for the period 2019-2022, including the monitoring protocol, was prepared by the promoter and approved by the authority in June 2019. In coordination with the competent authority, the promoter also installed an artificial vision system to detect birds and anticipate their trajectory to minimize the collision risk. Special attention has been put on observing in the direction of the former dunghills that were present in the area (they have been removed), as those were potentially attracting some species of vultures. In agreement with competent authority, the promoter has also proposed to paint one blade in black on three wind turbines, which may increase the rotor blade visibility and reduce avian fatalities<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> May R, Nygård T, Falkdalen U, Åström J, Hamre Ø, Stokke BG. Paint it black: Efficacy of increased wind-turbine rotor blade visibility to reduce avian fatalities. *Ecol Evol.* 2020;00:1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6592>



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The wind farm area is arable land that continue to be used for crops. The farmers have been compensated for their crop lost during the construction.

At appraisal, the EIB concluded that the project was acceptable under environmental aspects, subject to the approval of the final environmental monitoring plan by the authorities, which was met in June 2019 as explained above. The undertakings included in the ESDS, have been fulfilled by the promoter.

The project has been fully implemented and entered into operation mid-2020. The promoter reported no significant environmental or social issue during the implementation and operations of the project.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reporting by the promoter that the project has been implemented in line with EIB environmental and social standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.